

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 NSC-07 SS-20 AID-20 OMB-01 IGA-02 L-03 DRC-01

/108 W

----- 119482

O R 121235Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6704

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

JCS/ASD/PA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACHTAI BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

CHMEDTC PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

USSAG NKP

USDAO VIENTIANE

USDAO SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14722

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS

SUBJECT: AIRLIFT SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIA

REF: A. CINCPAC PA/LNO BKK 100145Z SEP 74 B. SECDEF 091950 SEP 74

C. PHNOM PENH 12179 D) CINCPAC 110420Z SEP 74 E) CINCPACAF AFB

110104Z SEP 74 F. BANGKOK 14647 G) BANGKOK 14648

1. WE CONCUR IN RELEASE OF FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN WASHINGTON.
QTE THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE TODAY ANNOUNCED THE AWARDED
OF A \$1.78 MILLION LETTER CONTRACT TO BIRD AIR COMPANY FOR AIRLIFT
SUPPORT OF THE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO CAMBODIA.
BIRD AIR COMPANY IS A DIVISION OF BIRD AND SONS, INC., A
WASHINGTON STATE CORPORATION WITH GENERAL OFFICES IN OAKLAND,
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CALIF. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT, BIRD AIR COMPANY WILL

BEGIN AIRLIFT OPERATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. UNQTE.

2. WE CONCUR IN USE OF FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S (PHNOM PENH SEE A20);

Q1: WHO PROVIDES THE AIRCRAFT?

A1: THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

Q2: HOW MANY AIRCRAFT ARE INVOLVED?

A2: FIVE.

Q3: WHAT MARKINGS DO THE AIRCRAFT HAVE?

A3: THEY ARE UNMARKED EXCEPT FOR TAIL NUMBERS.

Q4: WHERE ARE THE AIRCRAFT REGISTERED?

A4: THE TAIL NUMBERS ARE REGISTERED IN CAMBODIA.

A5: WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY AIRLIFT SUPPORT?

A5: AIR TRANSPORTATION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE CARGO TO CAMBODIA.

Q6: WHY IS THE U.S. AIR FORCE NO LONGER PROVIDING THE AIRLIFT SUPPORT;

A6: THIS IS TO FURTHER REDUCE THE PRESENCE OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN CAMBODIA.

A7: IS THIS CHARGED AGAINST THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM?

A7: YES.

Q8: WHOSE MAP?

A8 THE CHARGE IS LEVIED SPECIFICALLY AGAINST THE PCH&T FUND WHICH IS PART OF THE WORLDWIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THE PACKING, CRATICN, HANDLING AND TRANSPORT FUND COVERS THE COST OF THE DELIVERY OF THE GOODS FROM THE POINT OF ORIGIN TO THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION. OF COURSE, WHATEVER MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR MATERIAL IS ACTUALLY DELIVERED IN CAMBODIA UNDER THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT WOULD BE CHARGEABLE TO CAMBODIA MAP FUNDS.

Q9: WHAT NATIONALITY ARE THE CREWS?

A9: AMERICAN AND THAI.

Q10: HOW LONG HAVE THE AMERICAN CREW MEMBERS BEEN OUT OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE?

A10: PERSONNEL ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR. YOU WOULD HAVE TO DIRECT THAT QUESTION TO THE CONTRACTOR.

Q11: ARE ANY EX-AIR AMERICAN PILOTS AMONG THE CREWS?

A11: PERSONNEL ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR. YOU SHOULD DIRECT THAT QUESTION TO THE CONTRACTOR.

Q12: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE AIR CREWS IN THAILAND? WHAT KIND OF VISAS DO THEY HAVE?

A12: IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR TO MAKE SURE THAT THE AIR CREWS ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH RTG VISA REQUIREMENTS.
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Q13: WHERE ARE THE AIR CREWS BASED?

A13: (ONLY IF PRESSED FOR REPLY) THEY STAGE OUT OF UTAPAO.

Q14: WHAT IS THE NORMAL TOUR OF AN AIR CREW?

A14: THAT'S UP TO THE CONTRACTOR. YOU 'D HAVE TO ASK THE CONTRACTOR.

Q15: DO THE AIR CREWS PAY TAXES TO THAILAND?

A15: THE INDIVIDUALS MUST COMPLY WITH WHATEVER THE RTG REQUIRES

Q16: DO AIR CREWS HAVE PX PRIVILEGES?

A16: THIS CONTRACT WAS NOT WRITTEN IN A WAY TO PROVIDE THEM ANY

SPECIAL PRIVILEGES. THE SAME RESTRICTIONS AND PRIVILEGES APPLY TO THEM AS TO ANY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONTRACTOR.

Q17: WHAT'S THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS AND AIR CREWS INVOLVED IN THIS CONTRACT?

A17: THE CONTRACT CALLS FOR 40 PEOPLE INCLUDING FIVE AIR CREWS.

Q18: WHO PROVIDES THE MAINTENANCE SUPPORT?

A18: THAI-AM UNDER AN EXISTING CONTRACT AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

Q19: WAS THIS CONTRACT PUT OUT FOR BID?

A19: NO. UNDER THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET THERE WAS ONLY ONE COMPANY WHICH WAS BOTH QUALIFIED TO DO THE JOB AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED.

Q20: HAVE THE RTG AND GKR CONSENTED TO THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS CONTRACT?

A20: (IF PHNOM PENH CONCURS) THERE IS NO OBJECTION BY EITHER THE RTG OR THE GKR TO THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS MISSION.

Q21: HOW LONG IS THE CONTRACT FOR?

A21: THIS CONTRACT , LIKE OTHERS LET BY DOD, IS WRITTEN FOR A FISCAL YEAR.

Q22: DOES BIRD AIR PAY TAXES TO THAILAND?

A22: THIS CONTRACT WAS WRITTEN TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC SERVICES. INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACT WAS A PROVISION MAKING THE CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLYING WITH RTG REQUIREMENTS.

Q23: HOW MUCH MATERIAL PER MONTH WILL THE AIRCRAFT CARRY TO CAMBODIA?

A23: WE CAN'T FORECAST FUTURE REQUIREMENTS. IN RECENT WEEKS WE HAVE BEEN AVERAGING ABOUT THREE FLIGHTS A DAY.

Q24: WILL NEWSMEN BE ABLE TO FLY WITH AIRLIFT MISSIONS OR WILL THEY BE RESTRICTED AS THEY WERE ON THE MILITARY FLIGHTS?

A24: NEWSMEN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FLY WITH AIRLIFT MISSIONS.

Q25: WHERE WILL NEWSMEN BE ABLE TO OBTAIN DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE LEVELS OF SUPPORT SUCH AS THE NUMBER OF DAILY SORTIES, TYPES OF CARGO, AMOUNT, ETC?

A25: WE DO NOT PLAN TO RELEASE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE LEVELS
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OF SUPPORT ON A REGULAR BASIS.

Q26: IS THIS CIVILIAN AIRLIFT CONTRARY TO THE COOPER-CHURCH AMENDMENT?

A26: NO.

Q27: ARE THE AIRCRAFT BEING LEASED OR WHAT?

A27: THEY ARE GOVERNMENT-FURNISHED EQUIPMENT (GFE) PROVIDED AT NO COST

TO THE CONTRACTOR.

Q28: WHAT IS GFE?

A28: IT IS GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR LEASED EQUIPMENT FURNISHED TO A CONTRACTOR UNDER A CONTRACT, SUCH AS SPECIAL TOOLING OR SPECIAL TEST EQUIPMENT PECULIAR TO THE CONTRACTOR'S NORMAL BUSINESS OR OPERATIONS.

Q29: WHERE WILL BIRD AIR GET THEIR FUEL?

A29: FROM U.S. SOURCES IN THAILAND.

Q30: WHO DIRECTED THIS OPERATION.

A30: IT IS JCS DIRECTED.

Q31: IS THIS OPERATIONS CONNECTED WITH THE CIA?

A31: NO.

Q32: WHAT TYPE OF DELIVERY WILL BE INVOLVED--AIRLAND, AIR DROP OR BOTH?

A32: BOTH, PRIMARILY AIR DROP.

Q33: WHO TRAINS THE AIR CREWS?

A33: THEY ARE QUALIFIED THROUGH PREVIOUS FLYING EXPERIENCE.

Q34: WHAT HAPPENS IF ONE OF THE AIRPLANCES IS SHOT DOWN? WILL U.S. MILITARY ATTEMPT RESCUE?

A34: THIS WOULD BE APPROACHED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

Q35: WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY CIVILIAN CASUALTIES RESULTING FROM THE AIRDROPS?

A35: THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTROL THE DROPS AND WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGES OR CASUALTIES ON THE GROUND.

Q36: WILL THE AIR CREWS BE REQUIRED TO OPERATE UNDER THE SAME CONSTRAINTS AS THE USAF CREWS HAVE BEEN, SUCH AS MINIMUM ALTITUDES FOR AIRDROPS, ETC?

A36: YES.

Q37 IS THIS MERELY A CONTINUATION OF THE SAME TYPE OF MISSION THAT THE USAF CREWS HAVE BEEN FLYING?

A37: YES.

Q38: CAN WE OBTAIN A COPY OF THE CONTRACT?

A38: YES, AFTER IT IS FINALIZED AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH EXISTING PROCEDURES. YOU MAY BE CHARGED A SMALL FEE FOR REPRODUCTION COSTS.
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3. THIS MESSAGE WAS COORDINATED WITH CINCPAC PA/LNO BANGKOK.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR TRANSPORTATION, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, CONTRACTS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO14722
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740255-0020
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740953/aaaabswp.tel
Line Count: 204
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. CINCPAC PA/LNO BKK 100145Z SEP 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIRLIFT SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIA
TAGS: PFOR, MASS
To: DOD STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005